GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:356
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2009
REVIVAL OF VISL
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operations in Kemmangundi Iron ore mines at Karnataka allocated to Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd. (VISL), have been suspended under the direction of the Ministry of Environment & Forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any permission has been sought from the Government for leasing of captive Iron ore mine at Karnataka in favour of VISL for its revival;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure availability of Iron ore from captive source to save the said Public Sector Undertaking?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The iron ore mine at Kemmangundi allotted to Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd (VISL) was in operation since inception in 1923. This mine, located in the proximity of Bhadra Wild Life Sanctuary, was closed in the year 2004 at the direction of Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(c)to(e): VISL had applied for allotment of mining lease in NEB range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District (area 140 Ha) on 24.1.2007. Government of Karnataka had recommended to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India that the area be reserved for SAIL. Against the recommendation of the State Government, some of the applicants filed revision applications with Government of India.The final decision in the matter is awaited.